



## Quarterly Newsletter



Photo: Rural Maryland Council Chair John Hartline, with Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford and Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Jeanie Haddaway-Riccio during Maryland Day, March 25, 2021, Photo Credit: Tom Nappi

## Message from the Chair

Dear Charlotte,

On behalf of the Rural Maryland Council, we hope everyone had a busy and successful Winter. Believe it or not, Spring is here! RMC staff are still currently following the mandatory telework directive for all State employees issued by Governor Larry Hogan due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. All RMC events and meetings are currently being held virtually on Zoom. Hopefully, we can resume in-person meetings and events soon. View the Governor's most recent State COVID-19 updates [here](#).



Photo: Screenshot of Secretary Jeannie Haddaway- Riccio, Maryland Department of Natural Resources presenting Governor Larry Hogan's video to attendees for Rural Maryland Day on February 11, 2021, on zoom.

Governor Larry Hogan declared this year February 11, 2021, Rural Maryland Day. On this day, rural constituents from across the state met with key legislators to discuss the strengths and challenges experienced living in rural Maryland. Participants met virtually to meet one-on-one with legislators and their staff. Also, the Proclamation for Rural Maryland Day was presented. View a special video from the Governor [here](#). This event was a great success and we had over 100 attendees. View a recording of the presentation part of the day [here](#). On February 12, 2021, a special resolution was presented on the Senate floor as part of the Rural Maryland Day program for the Rural Maryland Council's 25-year celebration. View the video [here](#).



Photo: Screenshot of The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, United States Senator speaking to attendees at the RMC Spring Quarterly Executive Board meeting on April, 9 2021, on zoom.

Our Spring Quarterly Executive Board meeting was held on Friday, April 9, 2021 on zoom. The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, United States Senator was our featured guest speaker. The Senator shared an overview of the broadband resources available to students learning virtually or hybrid in rural areas. He also shared an update on the COVID-19 Farmer CARES Act and the American Jobs bill. During the meeting, RMC active committee reports and upcoming events were also shared.

The Rural Maryland Council is currently issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit a qualified entity to provide technical assistance in estimating the economic impact of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund and the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund using a set of economic data to model complex economic events and activity over time. View the Request for Proposals (RFP) [here](#). Proposals are due May 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm and can be sent to [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

Save the date! This year we will be hosting our biennial rural Summit on Wednesday, December 1 - Thursday, December 2, 2021, at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The Summit highlights the achievements and progress of Maryland's rural communities. Interested in being a sponsor for our Summit? Sponsorship forms are available on our website [here](#). More details about the conference are yet to come!

As always, we strive to continue to support our rural Maryland communities. Stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,



John Hartline  
Chair

## Message from the Executive Director

The 2021 Maryland General Assembly's Legislative Session was held virtually this year and adjourned on April 12, 2021. The RMC has remained active during this years session by submitting testimony, attending virtual bill hearings, Rural Caucus, and hosting a virtual Rural Maryland Day. Our Legislative Committee has also met biweekly to discuss 2021 RMC legislative tracking, and new this year the Rural Maryland Council hosted a Grab & Go lunch for Legislators on Maryland Day, Thursday, March 25, 2021, at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis.

The Rural Maryland Council and its grant programs, Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), and the Rural Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), are fully funded for Fiscal Year 2022. We thank Governor Larry Hogan for his support.



Photo: Screenshot of The Honorable Ben Cardin, United States Senator speaking to attendees at the Winter Quarterly Executive Board Meeting and Legislative Luncheon on

## Events

### [RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

2 pm - 3 pm  
4/19/2021

### [FY2022 MAERDAF/RMPIF Phase 1 \(LOI\) Available](#)

All Day  
4/26/2021

### [RMC FY2022 Grant Information Session](#)

12 pm - 2 pm  
4/27/2021

### [RMC Grant Writing Workshop](#)

11 am - 12 pm  
4/30/2021

### [RMC FY2022 Grant Information Session](#)

12 pm - 2 pm  
5/5/2021

### [RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting](#)

11 am - 12:30 pm

January 29, 2021, on zoom.

Our Winter Quarterly Executive Board meeting and Legislative Luncheon were held on Friday, January 29, 2021, via zoom. The Honorable Ben Cardin, United States Senator was our featured guest speaker. The Senator shared with attendees how President Biden's Administration is working on addressing COVID-19 issues in underserved communities in rural Maryland including effective vaccine distribution, relief to families and small businesses, and safely reopening schools. RMC active committee reports and upcoming events for 2021 were also shared. View a recording of the meeting [here](#).

As vaccinations are currently rolling out across the state, hopefully, we can resume in-person meetings and events very soon. At the bottom of this newsletter, we have compiled what we think are the most useful rural-focused COVID-19 links and resources for you and your business.

If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at [charlotte.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:charlotte.davis@maryland.gov) or (410) 841-5774

Sincerely,



Charlotte Davis  
Executive Director

5/14/2021

[FY2022  
MAERDAF/RMPIF  
Phase One \(LOI\) Due  
All Day](#)

5/21/2021

[Rural Summit Planning  
Committee Meeting](#)

1 pm - 3 pm

5/27/2021

[Rural Maryland  
Foundation Meeting](#)

10 am - 12 pm

6/3/2021

## Committee Updates



### RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee will meet on Friday, May 14, 2021 via zoom to discuss the long term goals and plans for the



### RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet on Monday, April 19, 2021 via zoom. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

To learn more about the RMC Legislative

## RMC In the News

[Volunteer Maryland accepting applications from Maryland nonprofits to host volunteers](#)  
January 19, 2021

[Rural Maryland Council marks 25 years of championing rural heritage and equity](#)  
January 21, 2021

[Rural Maryland Council celebrates 25 years](#)  
January 23, 2021



<p>RMC. Learn more about the meeting <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at <a href="mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov">rmc.mda@maryland.gov</a></p>	<p>Committee, please contact the RMC at <a href="mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov">rmc.mda@maryland.gov</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">Cardin to speak at Rural Maryland Council legislative luncheon Friday January 26, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Naming Contest &amp; Fundraising Campaign For New Regional Farmer's Market in St. Mary's County January 26, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Channel Marker receives Rural Maryland grant February 24, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rural Maryland Council Hosts Grab and Go Lunch For Legislators on Maryland Day April 5, 2021</a></p> <p><a href="#">Betamore &amp; Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. Announce Founder City April 6, 2021</a></p>
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## Community Links

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

### Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [African American Heritage Preservation Program Webinars](#) - Maryland Historical Trust - April 2021
- [Tech at the Gap](#) - Rocky Gap Casino Resort - October 14, 2021

### Awards & Grants

- [Agriculture and Rural Rebuild Challenge Funding](#) - Technology Development Corporation - Applications due on April 30, 2021
- [Value Added Producer Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications due on May 4, 2021

## Rural Maryland Foundation



**Rural Maryland  
Foundation**

**The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on Thursday, June 3, 2021, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).**

Are you looking for your organization to get noticed with paid advertising? Send us your logo and get your organization noticed!

- [Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications due on June 4, 2021

Logos can be sent to [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

### Programs & More

- [Land Trust Toolbox Directory](#) - Maryland Environmental Trust

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation or to become a member, please visit the website at [ruralmdfoundation.org](http://ruralmdfoundation.org).

Email: [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) to share links to your events and programs.

## COVID-19 Resources

The links below are for general and specific rural COVID-19 information. The following resources can also be found on our regularly updated [website](#).

- [United States Rural Development COVID-19 Response](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [COVID-19 Resources Useful for Rural People and Communities](#) - The Aspen Institute
- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Opioid Treatment Program Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus](#) - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- [COVID-19 Funding for Minority, Rural, and Socially Vulnerable Communities](#) - Office of Minority Health
- [Mental Health during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - Maryland Health Connection
- [COVID-19 Health Crisis: Financial Relief Guide for Marylanders](#) - Maryland Department of Labor
- [Maryland COVID -19 Crisis Support Program](#) - Maryland Department of Health
- [USDA Announces Funding Available to Organizations to Assist Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers under Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative](#) - United States Department of Agriculture

## MAERDAF Spotlight - Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Cycle



**MAERDAF**  
Maryland Agricultural Education &  
Rural Development Assistance Fund

FY 2022 grant cycle for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund will open on Monday, April 26, 2021. Established in 2000, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) offers important financial support to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote

statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education efforts. The Fund also provides targeted financial assistance to community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses through enhanced training and technical assistance offerings.

### Important Grant Dates

Grant Process Opening: Monday, April 26, 2021

Phase 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline: Friday, May 21, 2021

Phase 2: Full Application Deadline: Friday, July 16, 2021

Awards announcement: Monday, August 23, 2021

The Council will conduct two virtual information sessions to review program guidelines and criteria as well as offer a grant writing workshop. Grant information sessions will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm and Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. The grant writing workshop will be held on Friday, April 30, 2021 from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Register for the sessions and the workshop [here](#). Individual appointments will also be available during the week of May 10, 2021. Please contact the RMC office at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) to schedule an appointment.

## Special Feature - Rural Maryland Council Hosts Grab & Go Lunch For Legislators on Maryland Day



Photo: Attendees enjoying Maryland Day and picking up their pre-ordered bagged lunches on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis, Maryland. Photo Credit: John Hartline

Maryland Day is celebrated annually on March 25th, the anniversary of the day The Ark and The Dove landed at St. Clement's Island in 1634. Maryland Day has been celebrated since 1903, initially, a day recognized by the state's Board of Education to learn about Maryland's history. In 1916, the Maryland General Assembly first recognized Maryland Day as a legal state holiday.

In recognition of Maryland farmers, watermen, and rural communities, the Rural Maryland Council hosted a Grab & Go lunch for Legislators on Maryland Day, Thursday March 25, 2021 at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis sponsored by the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, the Rural Maryland Foundation and the Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission. The bag lunch was supplied by Caroline County's Chesapeake Culinary Center that included locally produced foods as well as a sample of Chesapeake Blue fishcakes.

“The Governor and I very much appreciate the rural communities, our agriculture communities, and the impact that agriculture producers, watermen and aquaculture related industries have on the state,” said Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. “Not only for their economic impact, but these individuals and these industries are protecting the environment, because they have to in order to have a good environment to be able to get the resources from the land and the water.”

Agriculture, aquaculture, and resource-based industries (RBI) are economically important to the entire state of Maryland, as well as each county and region (i.e. Western, Central, Southern, Eastern Shore, and subregions). From a recent BEACON study, the total economic impact of resource-based industries in 2015 equaled \$23.3 billion, supported over 94,500 jobs, and generated nearly \$902 million in state and local tax revenue. To put these magnitudes into perspective, the economic output of RBI industries is equivalent to 6.8% of Maryland’s personal income and 6.3% of Maryland’s gross domestic product (GDP). At the same time, total jobs supported by RBI activities (94,535) equals 3.1% of Maryland’s total employment.

RMC Chair John Hartline remarked, “In 2020, the Delmarva community raised 570 million chickens, and produced 4.2 billion pounds of shelf and table ready chicken and provided 17,955 jobs. Chicken house capacity grew 3 percent. In the middle of the worst pandemic in over 100 years, Maryland’s rural areas continued to produce food at the same or higher levels for millions and millions of people in suburban and urban areas. That is why we are here to celebrate on Maryland Day.”

The Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Jeannie Haddaway Riccio thanked the RMC for its efforts. “I want to thank the team at the RMC as well as your board members for all that you do. You all are excellent ambassadors for rural Maryland. We all know that a strong Rural Maryland overall means a strong Maryland.”

View a recorded video of the day's short program [here](#).

Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency and Maryland's federally designated State Rural Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and non-discriminatory manner.

Rural Maryland Council | 410-841-5772  
| [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) | <http://www.rural.maryland.gov/>  
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